

## **NELL-1 ENHANCED BONE MINERALIZATION**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

This invention pertains to the discovery that the human *NELL-1* gene induces or upregulates bone mineralization. The NELL-1 gene or gene product thus provides a convenient target for screening for modulators of bone mineralization. In addition, NELL-1 can be used to facilitate repair of bone fractures and/or to generally increase bone density.

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